



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Thurston Lake – Dozer Supervision Training		
PROJECT LOCATION	1.5 miles NE of Konocti Conservation Camp 13044 Highway 29, Lower Lake, CA	COUNTY	Lake
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Linda Green, Battalion Chief		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE: Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574	PHONE	(707) 967-1400

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project site is located west of Roundtop Mountain, between the DNA rock quarry and the Pt. Lakeview rock quarry, in the vicinity of Thurston Lake. Native vegetation is primarily brush (mostly chemise with scattered Manzanita) and scattered pines along the upper elevations. Thurston Lake is filled with sedimentation from the Manning Flat area and has no natural outlet. The project consists of field training for Dozer Boss students and will provide them an opportunity to learn how to supervise dozers in work commonly performed on wildland fires. Training evolutions include Fireline suppression repair, working around rock outcroppings, walking dozers into a remote area, and line placement adjacent to fire equipment (hose, etc.) already in place. Dozers will be used to demonstrate various methods of fire control operations and rehabilitation techniques commonly used in wildland fire settings. Improved supervision of heavy equipment on wildland fires will help reduce the environmental impact on the landscape. Area affected will be less than 100 acres. Dozers will move through brush using blade up techniques. All ground disturbance areas will be rehabilitated with on-contour brush windrows. No ground disturbance will occur within 100 feet of any watercourses (Class I, II, III, IV). Some road maintenance will occur on access roads. The field portion of the class will occur over a three-day period in May.

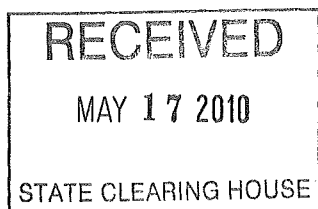
EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1, Sec. 15301 Class 4, Sec. 15304(a)
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under two classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class 1 (Existing Facilities) and Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land). Most of the project activities would occur within previously disturbed areas. The areas where new ground disturbing activities might occur are limited and are best described as minor in scope. For Class 1, the existing road system in the area has been used and maintained continuously for several years by the property owner. Some of the roads have been used for fire roads in the past, and a fuels treatment project occurred in the project area in 1996 {RX 1-030-LNU}. The native vegetation has been pushed back from the road in several areas, piled and burned to maintain the road for use. The training will occur along these roads and will not extend past the current brush line. For Class 4, minor grading and road repair will take place to maintain the viability of using the roads for future access to fire-prone areas. Current department standards for Fireline suppression repair will be followed to ensure the road system stays in good condition. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's LNU Headquarters in St. Helena.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 5/17/10
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection